

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 575

By Harper

A RESOLUTION designating February 27, 2006, as "Richard Dent Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are charged from time to time to recognize those eminent individuals, whose deeds and accomplishments have served as a source of great pride to the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, such an exemplary individual is Mr. Richard Dent, who attended Tennessee State University to play football for the Tigers under legendary Coach John A. Merritt and led the team to victory in the 1979, 1981, and 1982 Black College National Championships; and

WHEREAS, as a 6'5", 265-pound defensive end, Richard Dent anchored a defense that would lose only five games in his four years, earning him All-American honors in 1980 and 1982; and

WHEREAS, drafted by the Chicago Bears in the eighth round, Richard Dent would play professional football for 15 years, solidly establishing his reputation as one of the greatest National Football League (NFL) players of all time; and

WHEREAS, Richard Dent was named to the NFL Pro Bowl team in 1984, 1985, 1990, and 1993. He led the NFL in sacks with 17 in 1985, compiled a record 124.5 sacks during his career with the Chicago Bears, and finished his professional career with 137.5 sacks; and

WHEREAS, a vital part of the Super Bowl XX Champion Chicago Bears, Richard Dent was named Most Valuable Player of the Super Bowl, having recorded 1.5 sacks and forcing two fumbles; he would earn a second Super Bowl ring in 1994 with the San Francisco 49ers; and

WHEREAS, Richard Dent continues to contribute to the youth of Tennessee and this country as a positive role model, encouraging students to set goals in education and in sports; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his excellence on and off the playing field, Richard Dent was most appropriately inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame on February 24, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Richard Dent is truly an exemplary ambassador for his alma mater, Tennessee State University, and an esteemed and legendary sportsman who should be properly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate February 27, 2006, as "Richard Dent Day" in Tennessee and encourage the citizens of this State to celebrate on this day the life and works of one of Tennessee's greatest athletes and humanitarians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.